



#### Special points of interest:

- Employee Benefits
- Retirement Issues
- Employee Development Programs
- Innovation

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2004

U.S. EPA REGION 6 DALLAS TX

Office of External Affairs (6XA)  
David Gray, Editor-in-Chief  
Richard Wooster, Managing Editor  
(214)665-6473

# Region 6 Employee News Journal

U.S. EPA REGION 6 DALLAS TX

## Front Lines Message from the Regional Administrator

### The EPA 500-Day Plan: Visionary Roadmap to Success

We in America enjoy a standard of living unmatched in any other country, and our nation remains the land of opportunity for all. In no small part, the efforts of EPA and our partners have helped make our country the best place in the world to live, work and play.

By implementing "a better way," maintaining and improving public health and the environment in the years ahead are goals we can and will continue to achieve.

At EPA, we are faced with the continuing responsibility of solving not only the environmental problems of today, but those of future generations as well. Instead of settling to simply run our leg of the race, Administrator Mike Leavitt has challenged us to make this one of the most productive and enduring periods in environmental progress.

Within days of accepting his new role as our Administrator, Gov. Leavitt began to lay out an ambitious agenda for the agency based on the dual concepts of balance and stewardship. The result is our 500-Day Plan, built upon principles of innovation, partnership and cooperation.



Underlying the Plan is a philosophy that emphasizes collaboration instead of polarization, national standards and neighborhood solutions, markets instead of mandates, solutions that transcend political boundaries, and other common sense ideas that will accelerate environmental progress.

And, while the 500-Day Plan most assuredly serves as a new statement of vision for the agency, it is more than just another management theory. The Administrator's Plan for the agency reflects a real commitment of resources and effort to quickly accomplish specific priority objectives.

In the air program arena, the Plan engages the states to improve human health by implementing more strict national standards for ozone and fine particles. The Plan further commits to improving air

(Continued on page 8)

---

*(Visionary—Continued from page 1)*

quality by helping reduce pollution that travels across the country. In fulfillment of that commitment, the Clean Air Interstate Rule, the Clean Air Mercury Rule, and the Clean Air Non-road Diesel Rule have all been already proposed.

This suite of clean air rules will regulate dangerous toxins such as mercury for the first time, and are expected to yield air quality improvements far beyond those of the past thirty years, and in only half the time.

Under the Administrator's leadership, progress is also being made in other elements of the Plan. A few examples include commitments to clean and protect the water, to recycle and renew polluted land, to create regional networks of collaboration, and to manage the agency's resources wisely.

With regard to our water agenda, President Bush recently announced a new national wetlands goal that moves us beyond our old policy of "no net loss," to a new initiative of increasing the extent of wetlands in the United States each year. The specific goal is to create, improve, and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years, and to increase overall wetland quality.

In 2002 the President signed historic Brownfield's legislation to speed the nation's progress in revitalizing contaminated and abandoned properties. Today, new initiatives are emerging, such as our Ready-for-Reuse program, returning old industrial properties to productive uses.

Region 6 continues to be a leader in creating city, county, and state partnerships to address community and regional environmental goals. At the Tar Creek Superfund site, for example, we have formed a collaboration of federal, tribal, state, and local representatives working together, for the first time, to address the clean up of this mega-site.

With regard to managing resources, we are redesigning our performance measures to reward results, and EPA is linking our overall budget request to agency performance. To achieve this goal, senior staff and managers have already tied their performance standards to Agency goals, and this effort will be advanced to every employee.

These, of course, are but a few examples of the 500-Day Plan commitments EPA has met. If you haven't had an opportunity to review the Plan in its entirety, I encourage you to do so. The one page document is available at: [www.epa.gov/adminweb/leavitt/500dayplan.htm](http://www.epa.gov/adminweb/leavitt/500dayplan.htm).